



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
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## CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2016

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **oat** production in Montana is forecast at 1.31 million bushels, according to the August 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 10 percent from the July 1 forecast, but up 12 percent from the 2015 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 29,000 acres, up 7,000 acres from the 22,000 acres harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 45.0 bushels per acre, down 5.0 bushels from the July 1 forecast and down 8.0 bushels from last year. As of July 31, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Oats turning color were at 88 percent complete, compared with 81 percent last year and the 5-year average of 55 percent.

**Barley** production is forecast at 43.89 million bushels, up 4 percent from the July 1 forecast, but down 1 percent from last year's crop. The area for harvest in 2016, at 770,000 acres, is down 80,000 acres from the 850,000 acres harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 57.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from July 1 and 5.0 bushels above last year. As of July 31, the barley crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Barley harvest was 9 percent complete, compared with 19 percent last year and the 5-year average of 7 percent.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 96.80 million bushels, down 2 percent from the July 1 forecast, but up 6 percent from the 91.02 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.20 million acres, is unchanged from July 1, but 20,000 acres less than the 2.22 million acres harvested in 2015. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 44.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushel per acre from the July 1 forecast, but 3.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of July 31, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest was 54 percent complete, compared with 62 percent last year and the 5-year average of 27 percent.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 25.27 million bushels, up 12 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 35 percent from the 18.76 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 665,000 acres, is unchanged from July 1 and 60,000 acres more than the 605,000 acres harvested in 2015. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 38.0 bushels per acre, 4.0 bushels above the July 1 forecast and 7.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of July 31, the durum wheat crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Durum wheat turning color was at 51 percent complete, compared to 76 percent last year and the 5-year average of 34 percent.

**Spring wheat** production in Montana is forecast at 85.12 million bushels, up 12 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 13 percent from the 75.64 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.24 million acres, is unchanged from July 1, but down 200,000 acres from the 2.44 million acres harvested in 2015. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 38.0 bushels per acre, 4.0 bushels above the July 1 forecast and 7.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of July 31, the spring wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Spring wheat turning color was at 60 percent complete, compared with 91 percent last year and the 5-year average of 53 percent.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.70 million acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, unchanged from 2015. They also expect to harvest 950,000 acres of **other hay** in 2016, up 150,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 3.57 million tons, up 5 percent from 3.40 million tons produced in 2015. Other hay production is forecast at 1.43 million tons, up 11 percent from 1.28 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2.10 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.50 tons per acre for other hay, compared to last year's yields of 2.00 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.60 tons per acre for other hay.

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**Dry bean** production for 2016 is forecast at 1.38 million hundredweight, up 118 percent from the 634,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,400 pounds per acre, up from 1,340 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest 98,500 acres this year, up 51,200 acres from 47,300 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 1.43 million tons, down 1 percent from 1.44 million tons produced in 2015. Growers expect to harvest 45,200 acres this year compared with 43,700 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 31.7 tons per acre, down from 33.0 tons per acre a year ago.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Oats** production is forecast at 76.9 million bushels, up less than 1 percent from the July 1 forecast but down 14 percent from 2015. Growers expect to harvest 1.17 million acres for grain or seed, unchanged from July but down 9 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 66.0 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from the July 1 forecast but 4.2 bushels below the 2015 average yield.

**Barley** production is forecast at 190 million bushels, up 4 percent from the July forecast but down 12 percent from 2015. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 73.6 bushels per acre, up 2.7 bushels from the previous forecast and up 4.7 bushels from last year. If realized, this would represent a record high yield for the United States. State-level record high barley yields are expected in Arizona and Colorado. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.58 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 17 percent from 2015.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.66 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 21 percent from 2015. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 54.9 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last month and up 12.4 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 30.2 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 6 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 1.05 billion bushels, is up 1 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 372 million bushels, is up less than 1 percent from the July forecast. White Winter, at 237 million bushels, is up 6 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 21.7 million bushels are Hard White and 216 million bushels are Soft White.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 91.7 million bushels, up 11 percent from both July and 2015. The United States yield is forecast at 44.1 bushels per acre, up 4.3 bushels from last month and 0.6 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 2.08 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 10 percent from last year.

**Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 571 million bushels, up 4 percent from the July 1 forecast but down 5 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 11.8 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 9 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 48.3 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from last month and up 2 bushels from last year. Of the total production, 531 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 4 percent from the previous forecast but down 6 percent from last year.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2016 is forecast at 61.5 million tons, up 4 percent from 2015. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.40 tons per acre, up 0.08 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.1 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but up 2 percent from 2015.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 79.0 million tons, up 5 percent from 2015. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from last year. If realized, the 2016 average yield will be a record high for the United States and production will be the third highest on record behind only 2004 and 2003. Harvested area is forecast at 38.1 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but up 4 percent from 2015.

Production of **dry edible beans** is forecast at 29.5 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.72 million acres, down 3 percent from 2015. Harvested area is forecast at 1.66 million acres, 3 percent below the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,781 pounds per acre, an increase of 21 pounds from last season.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2016 crop year is forecast at 36.0 million tons, up 2 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.16 million acres, up slightly from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.15 million acres, up slightly from 2015. Expected yield is forecast at 31.4 tons per acre, an increase of 0.5 tons from last year.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).